

OFFICIAL GAZETTE



GOVERNMENT OF GOA

EXTRAORDINARY

GOVERNMENT OF GOA

Department of Information

Directorate of Information and Publicity

Notification

DI/INF/I.F.C.Loan/(10)/04-05/3325

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME

A free and vibrant media is an essential element of a democratic system, the reason why, both democracy and the media have flourished side by side in this country, since Independence. Both have also been victims of ferocious attacks from the intolerant sections, will both have emerged the winner in the end. Indeed, even more strengthened than before.

Quite apart from such challenges, the media in the country has been confronted with the challenge of rapidly changing technology that has impacted the profession. How good a journalist one is also now depends on how well one has understood and exploited information-enabling technologies. The situation in Goa has been no different. And today, the State of Goa has representatives from virtually every major print and electronic media organization.

The Government of Goa has been performing its mandated role of contributing to the freedom of the press. It has not hesitated to provide assistance, whenever required by the media, to help them conduct their duties and responsibilities without fear or favour.

Keeping in mind the needs of the journalists in an environment where technology is crucial, the State Government has announced a Scheme to provide journalists based in Goa interest-free loan for the purchase of a computer system, so that it becomes convenient for the media personnel to have easier access to what has today become the basic technology in their profession. It is expected that the Scheme would empower journalists with greater means to disseminate and spread information that is crucial to the sustenance of a democratic system such as ours.

The Honourable Chief Minister, Shri Manohar Parrikar announced the Scheme in his Budget speech for the year 2003-04. A provision of Rs. 5 lakh has been made for the purpose.

1. *Short title and commencement.*— This scheme may be called the Goa Interest-free Computer Loan for working journalist, accredited journalist scheme, 2003.

2. *Definitions.*— For the purpose of this scheme, unless the context otherwise requires—

(a) Accredited journalist means a working journalist who has recognition of being a media representative, by the Government for the purpose of access to sources of information in the Government and also to news material, written or pictorial released by the Department of Information and/or other agencies of the Government. The accreditation is issued by the Government on the recommendations of the Press Accreditation Committee of the State.

(b) Working journalist means a working journalist as defined in the Working Journalists

and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 (45 of 1955), as amended from time to time;

(c) Government means the Government of Goa.

(d) Words and phrases used in this Scheme but not defined shall have the same meaning as assigned to them in the Goa State Media Representatives Accreditation Rules, 2002.

3. Scope of the scheme.— The Government will provide an interest-free loan to a *working journalist, accredited journalist with the State Government*, amounting to 90% of total cost of a computer system, subject to a maximum of Rs. 40,000/- (Rupees Forty Thousand only).

4. Eligibility conditions.— For being eligible under this Scheme, working journalist, the accredited journalist—

(a) should be a permanent employee of a registered media organization for at least five years. A media organization for the present context would mean any publication (daily/weekly/other periodicity) that has at least one of its reporters accredited by the Government of Goa;

(b) should have spent at least 10 years as a working journalist in a registered media organization; and

(c) should be based in Goa.

5. Constitution of Selection Committee.— Under the scheme, the selection of beneficiaries would be done by a Committee headed by the Secretary (Information) of the Government, and having the Director (Information & Publicity) of the Government and two representatives one each from the Goa Editors' Guild and the Goa Union of Journalists, as members.

6. Those desirous of availing the loan under this Scheme need to fill an application form in Annexure I attached hereto and those selected shall execute an Agreement with the Government as specified in Annexure II hereto, specifying the terms and conditions for the grant of loan.

7. The Scheme does not confer a right on any applicant for obtaining interest free loan. Notwithstanding anything said in the Scheme, the Government reserves the right to reject an application without assigning any reason.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Goa.

Dilip Deshpande, Director, Information & Publicity.

Panaji, 8th November, 2004.